



Effect of the Indigenous People of Biafra's Sit-at-Home Order on the Economy of South-Eastern Nigeria

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Abstract

This research examines the effect of sit at home order by the indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB), on the economy of the southeastern part of Nigeria. The separatist/secessionist group that seeks for a referendum for the independence of the Igbo ethnic group of Nigeria is at the moment putting order that is seriously affecting the southeastern part of the Nation, on its trade and investment, internally generated revenue, and on works and transport. The work adopted the civil Disobedience theory, developed from Henry David Thoreau's 1849 essay on "Resistance to Civil Government" which was eventually renamed "Essay on Civil Disobedience" after his landmark lectures were published in 1866. The work shows that the indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB), is indirectly shooting itself on the leg by stampeding and destroying its own economic activities. The work drives its information from secondary sources of data, like Newspaper, journals, magazines, online and from relevant materials. The paper suggested and recommend but not limited to, that government should initiate dialogue with (IPOB) through the leadership of the South-East States in order to ease the tension.

Keywords; Indigenous People of Biafra's, Sit-At-Home Order, Economy of South-Eastern Nigeria.

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Introduction

The sit-at-home order of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the Southeast-Nigeria is rooted in the historical struggle towards restoring an independent state of Biafra in the old Eastern region of Nigeria. Biafra had previously existed as an independent multi-ethnic republic; encompassing majorly the Igbo; the Ijaw, Efik and the Ibibio people among few other ethnic groups which have now been balkanized into different states of the south-east and south-south geopolitical segmentations (Mckenna, 2021). The emergence of IPOB is a function of the continuing struggle to actualize the independence of Biafra earlier declared by Lieutenant Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu which triggered war that lasted for three (3) years (1967-1970). The war recorded an estimated 3.5 million deaths that were seriously civilian



causalities due to hunger and starvations with damaging consequences on socio-political and economic activities in Nigeria (Campbell, 2017). During the war, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and others tried to reconcile the combatants to no avail. Whereas most countries continued to recognize Gowon's regime as the government of all Nigeria and the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union supplied with arms, the international sympathy for the plight of starving Biafran children brought airlifts of food and medicine from many countries which include Gabon, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania and Zambia to the Biafran agitators and soldiers while France supplied them weapons (McKenna, 2021). Eventually, the war ended on 15th January, 1970 when Odumegwu Ojukwu fled, and the Biafran Soldiers surrendered to the Nigerian Military.

Though it was said that the war ended with "No Victor, No Vanquished" and a "3R" programme of "Reconciliation, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation" introduced to promote peaceful co-existence, practical experiences of the Biafran region had been that of "conquered, oppressed, and subordinated people" with little or no stake in the discourse of critical issues of national concerns. This led to series of concocted slogans with damaging interpretations such as "NAIRA" purportedly an acronym for "Never Allow Igbos Rule Again". Hence, the agitation for Biafra through the Platform of IPOB, was triggered following the nature of Nigerian federalism cum democratic system that is perceived as disadvantage to the Igbos due to the claimed evidence of marginalization of the Southeast region majorly dominated by the Igbo people by the Nigerian government. These evidences of marginalization have manifested in political alienation, inequitable resource distribution, extra-judicial killings, heavy military presence among similar other factors. It is against this backdrop that Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was formed in the year 2012 by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu; with the aim of restoring independence of Biafra (Allison, 2017; Owoeye, Ezeanya, & Obiegbunam, 2022).

Although there have been many activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) beginning from 2012, the most recent and unique strategy employed by the separatist group is **Sit-at home order** meant to register "peaceful protest" against the re-arrest of the IPOB leader; Mazi Nnamdi Kanu by the Nigerian Government (Federal) on June 29, 2021. The Sit-at-home Order which usually takes place every Monday as a major strategy employed by



IPOB member cum supporters is not only meant to react spontaneously to the arrest of their leader; but also to commemorate important days in the History of Biafra Struggle in showing solidarity with the leader of IPOB; and also to make Nigerian government free Nnamdi Kanu from what they perceived as unlawful detention/prison (Omole, 2021; Owoeye, Ezeanya, & Obiegbunam, 2022). But this Sit-At-Home Order have been received with mixed feelings and reactions with respect to the impact and consequences for the several sectors in the south east especially political and economic activities.

Conceptual Clarification

Indigenous People of Biafra

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) have been described by different actors and scholars in two main perspectives: Secessionist Perspective, and Terrorist Perspective. From the Secessionist viewpoint, the IPOB is seen as a “separatist organization” seeking to actualize Biafra Republic (Nwaiwu, 2016; Okafor, 2017; Ekpo and Agory, 2019; Okoye, 2021; Mark, Obi, & Chibuzor, 2022). In other words, the objectives of the organization are to facilitate and advocate the Igbo's right to self-determination sequel to the perceived high level of marginalization against them in the Nigerian State. The perceived Marginalization were identified to include political alienation, inequitable resource distribution, extra-judicial killings, heavy military presence among similar other factors (Owoeye, Ezeanya, & Obiegbunam 2022). It is against this backdrop that Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was formed in the year 2012 by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu; with the aim of restoring independence of Biafra (Allison, 2017). On the other hand, it was mainly the Nigerian Government that designated the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as a terrorist Organisation in 2017; then in May 2022, the UK government acknowledged IPOB as a terrorist organization directing that it should be excluded from its asylum programme. This acknowledgement of IPOB as a terrorist group was contained in the UK Government May 2022 updated Asylum Policy issued by its Visa and Immigration (UKVI) Department which asserted that “IPOB is proscribed as a terrorist group by the Nigerian government, and members of the group and its paramilitary wing – the Eastern Security Network (created in December 2020) – have reportedly committed human rights violations in Nigeria” (Abolade, 2022). Thus, the UK noted that IPOB has been linked to violence in the South-East precisely noting: the invasion



of an All Progressives Congress (APC) meeting in Enugu state where a party chieftain was killed; Attack on an Imo Police Station where an officer was killed; killing of Anambra residents during enforcement of "sit-at-home" order; and killing of some policemen en route to Anambra International Airport, among others (Abolade, 2022; Radarr Africa, 2022).

On the contrary, the spokesperson of the US Embassy in Nigeria, Russell Brooks, the President of the EU Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, asserted that IPOB is not a terrorist organisation under US Law, and European Union principles respectively.

Probably in the light of the above, the Nigerian government accused the United Kingdom of doing very little about its complaint that Biafra Radio was broadcasting from its territory and said the bulk of IPOB's funding from its diaspora supporters is sent through France. Hence, the then Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed cited in Ndujihe (2017) maintained thus:

Let me tell you, the financial headquarters is in France, it is incontrovertible that some people in the diaspora contribute money to IPOB....We know this as a fact. Again, there are a few knotty diplomatic issues which you need to skip. For instance, who does not know that the IPOB internal radio is located in London? We know the diplomatic moves we have been taking and approaching the UK, all the damage it has done; but they don't see it that way. For them, it is about freedom of expression. If we have a person in Nigeria openly soliciting arms to come and fight the UK, what would you think of it? Would you consider that freedom of expression? And this is a country that also has had a history; what did the Irish Republican Army (IRA) do to be labeled a terrorist organization? They were planting bombs, they were fighting the British army,"

On why the Federal Government labelled IPOB a terrorist group cited in Ndujihe (2017), the Information Minister said:

The acts and utterances of IPOB were acts and utterances of terrorists. For instance, Nnamdi Kanu, the IPOB leader was caught on tape saying that they want Biafra and not peacefully, but by force. He declared that if they do not get Biafra, Somalia will be a paradise with the kind of mayhem they will unleash on Nigeria. The group openly embraced arms and ammunition and the leader set up Biafra National Guard, Biafra Secret Service and openly attacked army formations.

Without prejudice to the foregoing viewpoints, the Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) is viewed in the context of this study as secessionist or separatist organization based on the positions of the United States of America, the European Union, the African Union, and



United Nations who have rejected the classification of the group as a terrorist organization.

Sit-At-Home Order

Sit-at-Home Order which have had several other synonyms like “stay-at-home order”, “safer-at-home order”, suggest “movement control order” or “lockdown restrictions” etc was initially an order from a government authority that restricts movements of a population as a mass quarantine strategy for suppressing or mitigating an epidemic or pandemic by ordering residents to stay home except for essential tasks or for work in essential businesses (Jones, 2020). But later, its usage expanded beyond a government authority that restricts movements, to include orders issued by non-state actors. The Sit-at-Home Order which started on 9th August 2021 is one of the strategies employed by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) to: press home the demand for: a referendum towards achieving self-determination; to honour those who have lost their lives in the course of the struggle; and more precisely, secure the release of the Leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The sit-at-home order became more pronounced with the re-arrest of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu on 29 June, 2021 by the Federal Government of Nigeria (Owoeye, Ezeanya & Obiegbunam, 2022). The Sit-at-Home Order as introduced on July 30, 2021 by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) requires everybody in Biafra Land, more especially South-East and South-States of Nigeria to stay at home without going out for any work or business whether in public or private establishment. The Order did not just end with mere declaration, but backed up with enforcement to ensure that business and commercial activities are completely shunned. During Sit-at-Home, most major roads and streets in the five South-East states were deserted by residents and motorists on Monday in compliance with the sit-at-home order given by IPOB (Okafor & Ede, 2021). The activities in commercial cities of Nnewi, Onitsha and Aba were grounded; Markets and government institutions including schools were completely shut down (Okafor & Ede, 2021).

Economy of South-Eastern Nigeria

The economy of any society revolves around trade and investment, production and manufacturing, and service delivery. Invariably, the economic activities of any society are geared towards promoting the various sectors through viable labour force. Usually, each society is inclined to particular economic activities that give it comparative advantage over others for improved revenue generation. The South-East Geopolitical Zone’s major economic activities centre on agriculture, commerce, and industry. Although the South East is the



smallest geopolitical zone, it contributes greatly to the Nigerian economy due to oil and natural gas reserves along with a growing industrialized economy.

Theoretical Framework

There have been series of debates regarding the IPOB's Sit-at-Home Order in the South East with respect to the (a) Compliance by the people; and (b) effects on the economy. In terms of compliance by the people, the issue of concern has been over the rationale behind the people's compliance. Notably, there two perspectives on this: the *sympathy perspective* and the *Panic perspective*. The sympathy perspective contends that compliance to, and effectiveness of the Sit-at-Home Order was as a result of the people's acceptance and support of the course for Biafra. On the other hand, the Panic perspective is of the opinion that compliance to, and effectiveness of the Sit-at-Home Order in the various states is more or less as a result of the use of force by IPOB in enforcing it (Sahara Reporters, 2022; Mark, Obi, & Chibuzor, 2021; Nkwede, & Nwodom, 2020)). The federal government sees the South-East zone as part of the whole nation. Thus, whatever happens to the zone affects Nigeria in general. When there is a total lockdown of the South-East zone, the zone loses. When the zone loses, Nigeria loses too. This sit-at-home order has made Nigeria lose billions of naira in general. When a sit-at-home order is issued, movement of any kind is restricted. This affects the federal government, as well because the federal government has its offices in the South-East zone; and internally generated revenue accruing to the Federal Government from the South Eastern States are also lost. This partly explains why the federal government is not happy with IPOB, and sees the organization as a "terrorist group" hindering the economic growth of Nigeria (Okafor and Ede, 2021).

Methodology

The pattern adopted by the researcher in this study is qualitative design which suits the description of the study under investigation. The South East is one of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. It comprises five states: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo. The zone is bounded by the River Niger on the west, the riverine Niger Delta on the south, the flat North Central to the north, and the Cross River on the east.

Sources of data collection were made from primary and secondary instruments from the extraction of relevant information from vital documents which include textbooks, journal publication, internet, government publications, research reports, newspapers and magazines.



The data generated were summarized through deduction techniques to relevant manageable size.

Data Presentation an Analysis

The various testimonies, comments, observations, and intelligence reports from different sources point to the position that the sit-at-home order which the enforcement started on 9th of August 2021 had a serious effect on the productivity/ economic activities of the South-Eastern Nigeria. This submission finds expression in the various statements of actors and report of intelligence organisation in the geo-political zone thus:

Table 1: Opinions on Effects of IPOB's Sit-At-Home Enforcement on the Economy of South-Eastern Nigeria

	Opinion Leader(s)	State	Occupation/ Status	Opinion Statement
1	Provision Owner	Shop Awka (Abakaliki Street)	Trading	Seven able-bodied men rushed into my shop that morning around 8am and asked me to lock it up or face the consequences. I didn't resist. I had to obey them so to save my life. We are all Biafra people in mind and spirit but I don't like this sit-at-home thing. How can you order people not to do business to feed their families?
2	Chief Nze Okorie	Enugu State	Socio-Political Analyst	The strategy of asking people to stay at home and to lock up their shops was having a toll on the economy of the South-East. It is retarding the development of the region. When other parts of Nigeria are moving forward, we are forced to take steps backward and by my own understanding.... The economy of this region has been stagnated over time.
3	Odoh	Umuhuali, Ishielu L.G.A. Ebonyi State	Public Affairs Analyst	The humanitarian and socio-economic activities of citizens of the state, were badly affected in the last sit-at-home order.
4	Sir Uchenna Okafor	Anambra	Former	The sit-at-home strikes initiated



		State	Commissioner for Trade & Commerce in Gov Willie Obiano's regime	by the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, have been described as a development crippling the economy of the entire South East Region. ...most customers are now leaving to other places to source for goods after failing to do business in the South East because of the constant sit-at-home strikes... once such people got what they wanted from Lagos or other places, they would not come back to Anambra again. 'Once they feel that Anambra is not safe they will continue to go to where they think they can do their business without harassment. If you watch now, most of our traders and business men are moving to our neighbouring states like Delta. What it means is that revenue and IGR will now be shifted to Asaba and as a state and region, we are losing heavily to sit-at-home.
5	Senator Abaribe	Enyinaya Abia State	Senate Minority Leader	Sit at home is killing the economy of the South-East as most businessmen are moving out of the region. Insecurity in the South- East is the biggest problem

Table 1 Continued

6	Chimaroke Nnamani	Enugu	The senator representing Enugu east	IPOB's order has affected the economy and social life negatively in the south-east.
7	Eze Kalu Ogbu,	Kalu Abia	Traditional Monarch, Enachioken Abiriba	the action would compound the economic woes of Ndigbo;... locking down the entire South East every Monday would not be in the economic interest of the region already suffering protracted exclusion.
8	Dr. Emmanuel Chukwuma,	Enugu	Archbishop of Enugu	shutting down the South East region this time would destroy



			Ecclesiastical Province Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion,	their economy and impoverish the Igbo
9	Rt. Rev. Biereonwu Livinus Onuagha	Onitsha, Anambra State	Bishop, Methodist Church Nigeria,	Whoever is talking about losses that we are going to incur is a myopic individual. Supposing every Igbo man in Nigeria complies with that directive or instruction, Nigeria will just be on her knees. If Igbo men and women in Abuja, Lagos, Kano, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, and all the states of the federation close their shops in compliance to that directive, Nigerians will feel more what will happen.
10	Apostle Emmanuel Agomuo	Abia State	Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Abia State Chapter	The lockdown would only be to the economic and general disadvantage of Ndigbo.
11	Peter Ohagwa	Imo State	The Director General, Bureau for Peace and Conflict Resolution,	The Sit-at-Home is causing more Hardship on the South-East Economy... the challenges people in the Southeast passed through during Covid-19, EndSARs, unknown gunmen killings were enough for IPOB to cancel such decision, saying that insisting on a-day-a-week sit-at-home would make matters worse.
12	Prof. Obasi Igwe	Enugu State	Socio-Political Analyst	Given that the Sit-at-Home is affecting the economy of South-East badly, IPOB should start thinking strategically to increase chances of winning the battle....the sit-at-home call be rescinded because there are families that cannot eat any day they do not go to the market” and



				IPOB should not turn them into “saboteurs” for attempting to feed their children.
13	Pastor Asinobi	Anambra	Patron of Drivers Welfare Association, DWA, Anambra state,	In as much as we the drivers are in support of any move to stop marginalization of Southeast zone and Ndigbo in particular, this fragrant abuse of and indiscriminate sit-at-home order does not augur well for the economic emancipation of the down trodden
14	Mr. Emmanuel Eze	Anambra	Retired Civil Servant	shutting down the southeastern region on Mondays is not the best decision now, saying that such action would have much adverse effects on the socio-economic welfare of the southeastern people;

Table 1 continued

15	Francis Eze	Imo State	Banker	The sit-at-Home affects the South-East Economy negatively...since over 60% of what people of the region use goods either produced or imported from outside their region, the economic implication is that the people should gird their loins for self economic independence.
16	Joseph Ozibo	Ebonyi State	Traditional Holder	Titl sit-at-home in the southeastern region is counterproductive and dysfunctional; Let IPOB leaders consider the socio-economic welfare of the people of the region
17	Onah Sunday	Ohaukwu, Ebonyi State	onetime chairman of the Nigerian union of teachers, NUT	Sit-At-Home is destructive to the South-East Economy
18	Nwafor Kalu	Imo State	An octogenarian and veteran of the	“bad occurrences evoke bad reactions”; though the Sit-at-



	Omekannaya,		Nigeria/Biafra war,	Home is affecting the South-East Economy badly, “We should blame whatever is currently happening, on the Nigerian Government. All the issues that led to the 30-month Nigeria/Biafra war, is still here with us, in greater intensity. Nothing has changed.
19	Chris Mocha		Director of Information, DOI, Biafra Independence Movement (BIM-MASSOB).	Only the South South and South East suffer the economic consequences of the order. The effect won’t reach Abuja or Lagos.
20	Hon. Emmanuel Nwobosi,	Anambra State	Senior Assistant Governor Willie Obiano on Internally Generated Revenue, IGR,	I have not heard of the sit-at-home order but I must emphasize that Nnamdi Kanu is our brother and a human who deserve to be treated with dignity and human right. it is high time the Federal Government begins to take certain things serious by listening to the yawning of the people. An idea cannot be killed by gun or knife. An idea can only be killed or replaced by another better idea.
21	Titus Akpudo	Anambra	President of Anambra State Association of Town Unions, ASATU,	The decision by IPOB is simply a call for Ndigbo to die of hunger.... Do they want all of us to sit-at-home and die of hunger before they will know that we are in support of their agitation?
22	Dr. Josef Onoh,	Enugu State	Chairman, Enugu Capital Territory Development Authority (ECTDA)	This is familiar propaganda that had enthroned hardship on the citizenry
23	Samuel Edeson	Enugu State	MASSOB’s spokesman	Sit-at-Home Destroys the Security and Economy of



Ndigbo in Nigeria; the Igbo is harshly subjected to economic and political slavery in Nigeria and cannot continue to inflict more economic pains on themselves. Declaration of weekly sit-at-home order and closing of major markets in Igbo land amounts to self economic destruction of Igbo nation.

Table 1 Continued

24	Austin-Mary Ndukwu,	N/A	Administrative Secretary , Biafran Liberation Council	the sit-at-home order as a declaration of war and hunger inflicting pain on the people
25	Angela Eze	Owerri, Imo State	Food Vendor	The IPOB Monday sit-at-home strategy cum order has continued to pose series of threats to the economic and commercial activities across all states in the South-east region of Nigeria.
26	Agency Report	Owerri Imo State	News Agency	Economic and social activities have halted in Imo over sit-at-home order by the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) over fear of possible attacks”.
27	News Agency of Nigeria	Owerri, Imo State	News Agency	Residents of the state have deserted markets and streets of the state capital for safety.
28	Okechukwu Nnaji	Owerri Imo State	Commercial Motorist	the motorist experienced poor patronage due to Sit-at-home order by the IPOB.
29	Okoye	Owerri Imo State	Socio-Political Analyst	...the prevailing situation of the shutdown of the South-East every Monday has continued to inflict collateral damage on the economy of the South-East States. The hoi polloi, who eke their daily livelihoods by hawking sachet



beverages, vegetables, fruits and others-bear the brunt of the weekly shutdown of the South-East. Indeed, when the action started in August, cities of the zone were ghost towns with streets, roads, avenues, closes, etc left desolate.....in Umuahia, Awka, Enugu, Abakaliki, Onitsha and Owerri, the situation persisted as many streets were empty even as shops and banks had their door shut penultimate Monday. Reports coming from Aba in Abia State indicate that despite the opening of some markets, traders were not seen in their shops. The same scenario played our last Monday.

30	Chief Abia Onyike	Ebonyi State	Former Commissioner for Information and Culture	The Sit-at-Home affects the economy of the South-East Nigeria very badly; but pressure should be shifted from militarization of the South-East Zone to the Leadership in Abuja.
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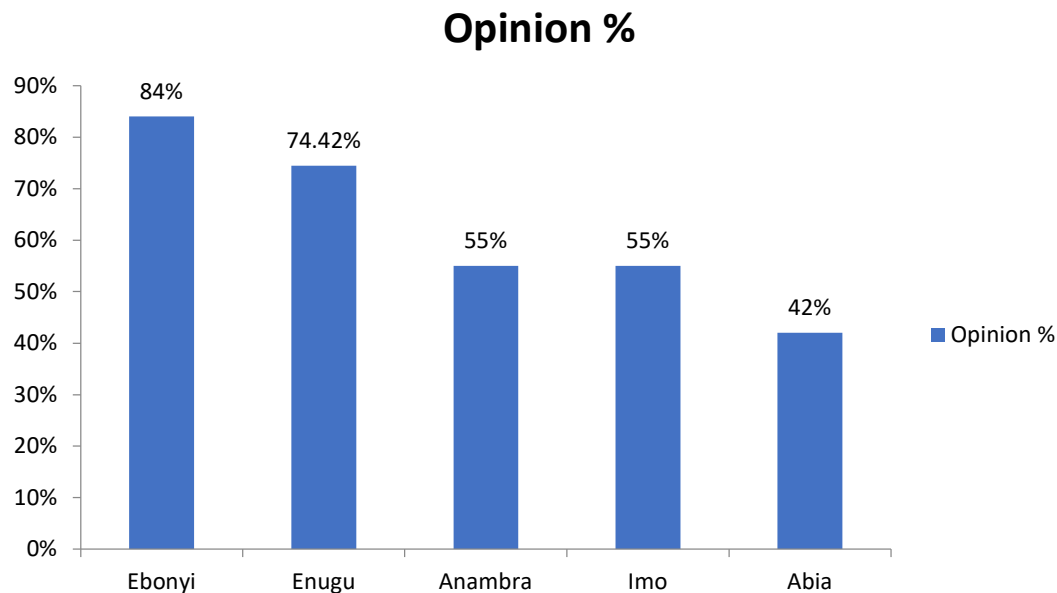
Source: <https://elenumoji.com/2021>; <https://www.legit.ng/2021>; Odili, E. (2021); *Vanguard*, August 25, 2021; Owoeye, Ezeanya and Obiegbunam (2022)

The various opinions by different leaders evidently synchronize with the intelligence report gathered by the SBM Intelligence Agency through survey which substantial percentages of the respondents by states and by sectors submitted that enforcement of the Sit-at-Home Order had serious effects on the productivity/economic activities of the South-Eastern Nigeria. This submission finds expression in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2: Intelligence Report on disruption to economic activity By IPOB's Sit-at-home in South-East Nigeria by States

S/N	STATE	Percentage of Opinions
1	Ebonyi	84%
2	Enugu	74.42%
3	Anambra	55%
4	Imo	55%
5	Abia	42%

Source: SBM Intelligence Report, 2021

**Figure 1: Intelligence Report on disruption to economic activity By IPOB's Sit-at-home**

Source: Derived from Table 2

Based on the opinion percentage of the intelligence report on disruption of economic activity by IPOB's Sit-at-Home Order in South-East Nigeria by States, the mean or average percentage is $255.42 \div 5 = 51.084\%$ (sum of the percentages divided by 5-states) approximated to 51%. Out of the five states, only the percentage of opinions in Abia state is below the average; the percentages of opinions for other states are above the average. This gives credence to the position that the Sit-at-Home negatively affected the economy of South East Nigeria to a large extent as testified by the opinion leaders in table 1.

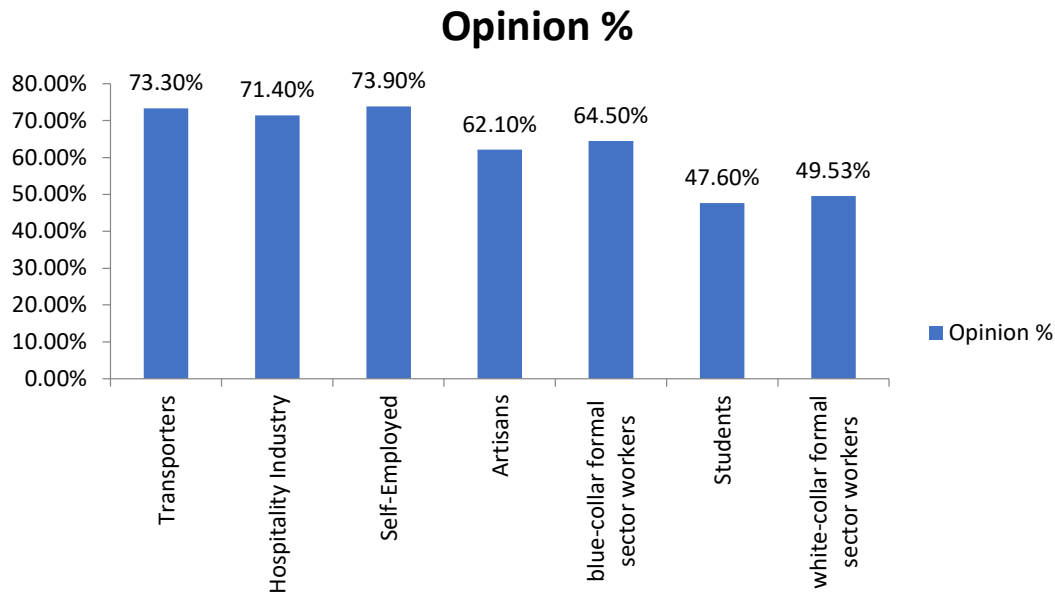
Table 3: Intelligence Report on disruption to economic activity By IPOB's Sit-at-home in South-East Nigeria by Sector

S/N	Sector	Percentage of Opinions
1	Transporters	73.3%
2	Hospitality Industry	71.4%
3	Self-Employed	73.9%
4	Artisans	62.1%
5	blue-collar formal sector workers	64.5%
6	Students	47.6%
7	white-collar formal sector workers	49.53%

Source: SBM Intelligence Report, 2021



Figure 2: Intelligence Report on disruption to economic activity By IPOB's Sit-at-home



Source: Derived from Table 3

Drawing from the data contained in Table 3 and Figure 2, the average percentage for the various sectors is $442.33 \div 7 = 63.19\%$ (sum of sector percentages divided by the 7-sectors). Out of the 7 sectors, only 3 (Artisans, students, and white-collar formal sector workers) were below the average of 63.19%; the other 5 sectors (Transporters, hospitality industry, self-employed, and blue-collar formal sector workers) are all above the average percentage of the opinions. But even the Artisans had above 50%, meaning that more than half of the opinion respondents were in the affirmative. In essence, the major sectors of the South-East Economy covering Trade and Investment, Internally Generated Revenue, and the Productivity of Workers were seriously affected by the compliance to, and enforcement of, IPOB’s Sit-at-Home Order.

Discussion of Findings

Effects of IPOB Sit-At-Home Order on Trade and Investment

It is evidently observed that IPOB Monday sit-at-home had negative effects on Trade and Investment in the Southeastern Nigeria. Hence, Okoye (2021) noted that enforcers of the sit-at-home order have inadvertently been dealing a fatal blow to Trade, investments, investors and investees in south-east zone. Citing the Commissioner for Trade and Commerce in the



outgone regime of former Gov Willie Obiano Sir Uchenna Okafor, Atupulazi (2021) noted that most customers are now leaving South-East to other places to source for goods after failing to do business in the South East because of the constant sit-at-home strikes. Using Anambra State as an instance, Okafor cited in Atupulazi (2021), noted that once such people got what they wanted from Lagos or other places, they would not come back to Anambra again. Once they feel that Anambra is not safe, they will continue to go to where they think they can do their business without harassment. Okafor cited in Atupulazi (2021) most of our traders and business men are moving to our neighbouring states like Delta. What it means is that revenue and IGR will now be shifted to Asaba and as a state and region, we are losing heavily to sit-at-home (Atupulazi, 2021).

Effects of IPOB Sit-At-Home Order on Internally Generated Revenue

In relation to Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in the South-East Nigeria, it is noteworthy that on every Sit-at-Home, the geopolitical zone loses. The Governor of Ebonyi State and Chairman South-East Governor's Forum, David Nweze Umahi cited in Atupulazi (2021) while lamenting the negative effects of the Sit-at-Home on the economy of South East Nigeria, noted that each time we sit-at-home, we lose over N10 billion in our economy.

Effects of IPOB Sit-At-Home Order on Works and Transport

In terms of Works and Transport for both "government workers" and "self-employed", the Sit-at-Home has dealt with productivity in the sector. During sit-at-home, workers cannot go to work and all the economic activities of these workers are hindered. Consequently, they cannot generate any income.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concludes that compliance to, and enforcement of the IPOB's Sit-at-Home Order, negatively affected the economy of South-East Nigeria. In the first instance, the sit-at-home impaired trade through restriction of movement; and discouraged investors from continuing their investment in the zone due to security threats. In the same vein, Sit-at-Home caused serious loss in the internally generated revenue of South-East Nigeria. Also, the Sit-at-Home negatively affected productivity in works and transport sector given that workers could not go to work not just because of restriction of movement as



transportation was impaired, but also due to manifest insecurity within the zone especially on the “Ghost Mondays”.

Recommendations

The study recommends as follows:

- i. The Nigerian government needs to relax the proscription order on the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) with the Organization such that the Sit-at-Home Order could also be relaxed to reciprocate the gesture. This would go a long way in encouraging the commencement of trade and investment activities on the “Ghost Mondays”.
- ii. There is need for government to initiate dialogue the IPOB through the leadership of the South-East States to harmonize ways of dousing tensions so that the economic activities that generate revenues for the south-east states would be resuscitated.
- iii. The Governments of the South-East Nigeria needs to collaborate and guarantee security in the zone to ensure the safety of workers and transporters while productivity will be enhanced.

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